श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर: सिन्हा कमेटी ने हर पहलू पर विचार करके अपना मंतव्य विभिन्न वर्गों के लिए आवश्यकताओं को देखते हुए हमें विवरण दिए हैं, उन पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं । जैसे बताया कि स्टेनोग्राफर के विषय में दिया गया था 451 । उसका अपग्रेडेशन हो गया, हमने उनको ग्रेड-2 से ग्रेड-1 में लिया है । दूसरी जो बहालियां हुई थीं, वह मैंने बता दिया । बाकी जो उनके सुझाव आ हैं उन पर विचार हो रहा है और शीघ्र ही निर्णय लिए जाएंगे ।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, there are 7 million assessees in this country. I raised a Special Mention in the last Session. So far I have not recevied any reply. I am asking a supplementary on this. Sir, a cess audit was conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in the year 1989-90. They audited only 0.3 per cent cases. What did they find? They found in 8000 cases, revenne of Rs. 800 crores was in their name. It was Rs. 10 lakhs per case. Why did this happen? Because they were under-staffed, and they had no time. Some quota is give to the officers to complete the cases every months. So, they disposed of the cases without applying their mind. And this is the result. Sir,I am very much surprised as regards the Income Tax officers. There is not much increase in the staff. The total expenses on the Department for collection of revenue is less than 3 per cent. So, more officers should be appointed. The business houses are evading tax to the tune of Rs. 200 crores every year. As such very few cases are being scrutinised. I want that the scope of scrutinishing should be wider and more cases should be scrutinised. Then we will get more revenue. I am confident if all the cases are scrutinised, except those of salaried employees, then you will not get less than Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 crores more every year. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is going to appoint more officers and see that higher officers who conduct assessment of big officers, apply their mind and bring out such cases. These cases should be properly dealt with and penalty should be livied. I would like to know from the Minister whether this is being done or not.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: So far the question is concerned, the hon. Member is fully aware of the Choksi Committee Report and thereafter the Chellayya Committee Report. We had a different system at different stages. Earlier assessments up to Rs. 1 lakh used to be accepted and others were put under scrutiny. Subsequently, all the returns were to be accepted, except those on random selection, a certain percentage of cases from different categories, which were subject to very detailed examination as pointed out by audit and otherwise on the experience of the department.

The system from the last year is that we are examining all the cases. Scrutiny of about 5 lakhs cases is being done. So, it is not that scrutiny is not being done. It is a matter of opinion. In certain cases there are audit objections. Those objections are taken into consideration. Efforts are being made to effectively implement these suggestions. Efforts are also being made, wherever necessary, to amend the law, so that such leakages do not take place. So far as the Member's suggestion in regard to the increase in the number of officers is concerned, this is very much in the mind of the department. Based on the recommendations and requirements we will certainly take early steps to ensure that no office of the Income Tax Department suffer for want of officers and no system will be left deficient for detailed scrutiny.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : मान्यवर, जिन अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही हो रही है और जिनके मामले विचाराधीन है, उनमें क्या कर रहे हैं आप, जो काम नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, निलम्बित हैं ?

Amendment of Baggage Rules to permit bringing of gold into the country

*166. N.E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:†

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

(a) whether the Rangarajan Committee had recommended amendment of Baggage Rules to permit the bringing of modest quantities of gold into the country; and

(b) if so, whether in view of the steadily hardening domestic gold price trends, Government are considering the implementation of this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Rangarajan Committee recomended that the existing ceilings on the aggregate value of gold jewellery that could be imported under the Transfer of Residence Rules and Customs Baggage Rules by passengers who have resided abroad for more than one year should be enhanced and fixed in terms of quantity. The quantity recommended was 100 grams per person, both for female and male passengers.

(b) Government have not found it feasible to raise the limit and fix it in terms of weight because of problems of assessment in cases of studded jewellery. However, monetary limits for jewellery allowed to be imported by incoming passengers under the Baggage Rules, 1978 and Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 have been raised recently from Rs. 1,500/- to Rs. 10,000/- for male passengers and from Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- for female passengers, on the basis of the comparative prices of gold prevailing in 1978 and current prices of gold.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the reply of the Minister is as stereotyped as generally the Minister gives in the House. The point is, the price of gold is picking up in the country much above the international price. At the present moment, it is more than Rs. 5,000 for to grams and at the international level, is is more than Rs. 2000 for 10 grams. Therefore, the price is much higher in this country. Now, the problem is that the families who work outside, who stay outside and who have their legitimate earning and with that earning, they make ornaments, they are not permitted to bring the ornaments legally. Then what is the effect? They are forced to bring it illegally or they are forced to part with their gold abroad and while they are inside the country, they are forced to purchase gold at a much higher price. Therefore, it is a case of total discrimination. The Finance Ministry is allowing investment of the unaccounted money in the country. They are allowing unaccounted money in the country. So far as the non-resident Indians are concerned, the Government is encouraging investment of the unaccounted money. But so far as the unaccounted wealth-a little amount of unaccounted personal wealth is concerned, there is a curb. This is where the contradiction, the discrepancy and the discrimination of the Government policies is. My question is whether the Government believes that it is a discrimination in view of their allowing the investment of unaccounted money and if it thinks that there is a discrimination, how are they going to solve it?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: There is no discrimination whatsoever... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, what is he saying? I fully protest against this.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Where is the question of discrimination? In fact, we have welcomed our non-resident Indians to send their money particularly through air remittances. Special amenities have been given. They can remit any amount of foreign exchange as well as they can buy gold bound. So far as jewellery is concerned, we have already raised the limit. It has been raised from Rs. 1500/- to 10,000/-in the case of male members and from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 20,000/- in the case of female members. We will see the effect of this and the Government may again consider to raise it further. There is no question of discrimination anywhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have development bonds. But what about the issue of jewellery bonds? Are you thinking of issuing gold bonds?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: It is based on value. They can bring in up

to Rs. 20,000 worth of jewellery. This is what we have done. Instead of by weight, it is based on value.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is an example I gave. Is it not true that you are allowing investment of unaccounted money. tax-evaded money, into the country?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Hawala.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: They are doing it. They are allowing it. They are whitewashing the black money. This is the system. But on the other side of it, they are not allowing the bringing into the country of ornaments which these people have purchased through their own income. This is the discrimination. Does he understand my point?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I understand your point well. But please try to understand my reply.

The Indians who are residing abroad are very eminent persons; scientists, doctors, engineers and others. They have earned money there. We welcome their money. That is why we have given this opportunity. We have given at the rate of 9½ per cent, which is not given even in Swiss banks. It is much higher than that. Therefore, it is not that we are discriminating. We have really given them a good opportunity.

On the question of baggage, personal baggage, we thought that instead of 100 gms.—it is very difficult because jewellery is studded; it is very difficult to segregate and value; it will create problems for everyone-we should allow it on value-basis. As I said. this year, this has been raised from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 10,000 in the case of male passengers, and from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 20,000 in the case of female passengers. I do not think there is any discrimination. In fact, we welcome money from abroad. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My second supplementary—part(b)— is, while there is a ceiling on the bringing into the country of gold ornaments, why is there no celing on the bringing into the country of cash, money, from outside? Why is there no ceiling on it? I am phrasing my Question. ,Part (b) of my question is, the price of gold in the country is increasing. As a result, there is smuggling everywhere. You are not curbinp this smuggling. The Government is totally incompetent. It has totally failed to stop this smuggling. When they have failed to stop this smuggling, why are they putting curbs on the bringing into the country of their legitimate earnings by these people? These are two parts of my question.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: So far as the question of bringing in jewellery is concerned, we have not stopped. It is only a question of valuation. The Rangarajan Committee had said that we should give by way of weight. We found it difficult. Therefore, it is allowed on the basis of value.

So far as the question of bringing in money is concerned, we have examined this matter thoroughly. We have given them one time oppodtunity. Those who want to invest there itself, they can do it there itself in dollar bonds. We really want cash. We need foreign exchange.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Cash is good, but gold is bad, for the country;

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: They will allow VCR.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: They will allow VCR. They will allow smuggling. But they will not allow bringing in of jewellery in the legal way. I am not pleading for the big people. I am pleading for the middle-class people.

SHRI RAMESWAR THAKUR: There is a lot of difference between cash and jewellery. Cash can be immediately made use of in productive channels. In the case of jewellery, it cannot be immediately used for productive purposes. This distinction is there. Cash, currency can be used for productive purpose.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is the guarantee that the money that is brough into the country will not be used for speculation, for blackmarketing and other things? He is just sermonising. Can he give this guarantee?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, we want an half-an-hour discussion on this.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given the answer. That is all. I cannot force him to say anything.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : श्रीमन, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि 1977–79 के दौरान जब जनता पार्टी का शासन था तो उस समय सोने की कीमत 1100 रुपए तोला हो गई थी और हमारे उधर के साथी घूम घूमकर यह प्रचार कर रहे थे कि क्या कोई गरीब महिला अब मंगलसूत्र पहन सकती है और जनता पार्टी के शासकों पर आरोप लगाया कि उन्होंने गरीब महिलाओं को मंगलसूत्र पहनने से भी वंचित कर दिया । मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहती हूं कि अब जब सोने की कीमत तब के मुकाबले में चार गुना से भी ज्यादा यानि 4000 से 4800 रुपए तोला हो गई है तो आज मंगलसूत्र तो क्या अंगूठी पहनना भी गरीब महिलाओं के लिए कठिन हो गया है...

श्री सभापति : यह सवाल तो ज्वैलरी इंपोर्ट करने के बारे में है...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : तभी तो मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि सोने की कीमत घटाने के लिए बैगेज रूल्स में संशोधन के अलावा और कौन कौन से प्रयास सरकार कर रही है

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

राज्य व्यापार निगम के लिए निर्यात लक्ष्य

*167. **सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :***
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा 1990–91 के वर्ष के दौरान किए गए निर्यात के मूल्य में पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में कमी आई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या राज्य व्यापार निगम के लिए 1991–92 के वर्ष हेतु 640 करोड़ रुपए का निर्यात-लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि लक्ष्य 1989–90 के वर्ष के निर्यातों के मूल्य से कम है ;

(घ) इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ङ) राज्य व्यापार निगम के लिए कम निर्यात का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) वर्ष 1991–92 के लिए 662 करोड़ रु० मूल्य का निर्यात-लक्ष्य रखा गया है ।

(ग) से (ङ) जी हां । वर्ष 1991–92 के लिए निर्धारित 662 करोड़ रु0 मूल्य का निर्यात लक्ष्य वर्ष 1989–90 के दौरान किए गए 752 करोड़ रु0 मूल्य के निर्यात की तुलना में कम है । किन्तु, वर्ष 1991–92 के लिए निर्धारित लक्ष्य वर्ष 1990–91 में हुए वास्तविक निर्यात की अपेक्षा अधिक है । अपेक्षतया कम निर्यात लक्ष्य मुख्य कारण यह है कि अगस्त, 1991 में में कुछ निर्यात मदों का सरणीयन समाप्त कर दिया गया है और वर्ष 1989–90